



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ***Tours Will Showcase Living Areas, Medical Offices, and Community Resources***

The East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility will host its second annual open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4. The facility, opened in June of 2004, is located at 446 Alta Road in East Otay Mesa near Donovan State Prison.

The public will get to see where detainees eat, sleep, attend school and receive medical care. Outside the facility, more than 30 booths will have information about the many prevention, intervention, and treatment programs available to youths, adults, and families.

"Open House allows us to educate the community about how we work with juvenile offenders," says Chief Probation Officer Vincent J. Iaria. "Probation officers are not here to punish kids. We focus on rehabilitation. We provide them with new opportunities to find success in school, the workplace, and the community."

Probation officers will lead tours of the state-of-the-art 185,000 square foot facility. It can house up to 380 delinquent youths in one of 10 living units designed to allow maximum direct visual contact between probation officers and detainees. Each room in a unit contains a toilet, sink, and drinking fountain and each unit has an interior classroom limiting the amount of detainee movement. A high-tech computer system and closed circuit video cameras allow the entire facility to be centrally monitored and controlled.

The facility contains a full array of services, including medical, mental health, and dental services. It works in conjunction with the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility to house juvenile offenders awaiting long-term placement in treatment programs, 24-hour schools, California Youth Authority or re-entry to the community.

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